

ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda

Informal Civil Society Briefing

The United Nations - like other institutions - is facing challenges in rapidly demanding times. Challenges to which it must adapt in order to survive. Some Member States are questioning if this important institution will maintain its relevance and credibility. These concerns are important for all actors, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that have engaged extensively in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Financing for Development (FfD) process.

As CSO FfD Group, we are interested to engage constructively in the “dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system”. We welcome the opportunities provided by the Vice President of ECOSOC to provide views and appreciate the challenges brought forward by the Independent Team of Advisors in their analyses and options for strengthening the work of the United Nations Development System (UNDS). There are several issues that clearly stand in the center of this dialogue from the perspective of our long-lasting engagement in the FfD process. Among them:

- The lack of predictable and sufficient funding for the UNDS to play its role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; this concerns specifically the dominance of earmarked contributions, leading to a growing “bilateralization” of multilateral aid;
- The further erosion of resources for the UNDS including by redirecting funds for humanitarian purposes;
- The ongoing fragmentation of the UNDS that prevents it from playing its required/mandated role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- The turn towards the private sector and corporate philanthropy in the absence of clear policies and procedures to safeguard the public space from conflicts of interest;
- The lack of an overall comprehensive normative framework derived from Human Rights and Sustainability conventions and agreements.

We look forward to contributing in the coming stages of the ECOSOC dialogue facilitated with the necessary information and in a timely fashion to enable consultations.